

June 14, 2015

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary time (B)

From The Desk of Msgr. Corrigan:

Cardinal Dolan has made a special plea to all his parishes for help in getting a bill passed in the New York State Assembly. The bill is the EDUCATION TAX CREDIT. If approved it would substantially increase the amount of money we could raise for scholarships for our children attending our schools. Call the office of your state assembly person's office (for many of us this is Gary Pretlow District 89 or Shelly Mayer District 90). Or sign onto www.investined.org today. Type in your street address and zip code; the website will identify your state legislator and give you a sample email which you can customize, if you like. Then simply press "Submit Email" and you are done.

Many thanks to the members of our Spanish community who have volunteered once a month to help clean the different parts of our church building e.g. the marble on the high altar. It was great to see at least twenty men and women working in the church last Saturday.

An historical note. The Bridge connecting the Bronx and Manhattan (near Yankee Stadium) opened up last week. It was forced to close forty years ago. It was the final link in an aqueduct that first carried pure water to Manhattan from upstate New York. It opened in 1848, the same date as the founding of our church. Some of our original parishioners worked on this Croton Aqueduct. Our earliest records show a contribution towards the building of our first church (today's parish hall) from "the workers of High Bridge" \$20.75.

Convent Garden update: we have finished all the transplanting of the plants from the garden of Mary the Queen. Next spring our garden will look spectacular. My biggest problem is the number of weeds. It is backbreaking work. I am thinking of setting up a "weed patrol" consisting of volunteers from the parish. The garden is always open, especially to parishioners and friends. Go in and enjoy it.



COLLECTION:

The collection for last Sunday, June 7, 2015 was \$3,691.00.

The second collection today Sunday June 14, 2015 will be for our Father's Day Remembrance collection.

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: As we begin our summer season and the year's long stretch of Ordinary Time, God seems to be a gardener. Trees and shoots and sprouts appear in both the first reading and the Gospel. Perhaps our prayer at the beginning of this growing season can be for God to help us to nurture the good seed of faith that has been planted in us, so that we can bear fruit for God's reign.

In the first reading, Ezekiel 17:22-24: It is the **Lord** who plants and grows: who raises and humbles. For although they are in exile, **God** will bring them back and plant them in their own territory.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 92:2a: "Lord, it is good to give thanks to you"

In the second reading, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10: Paul remind us that we will be judged for what we "did in the body"-i.e., in this life. So in some sense our actions, while not the cause of **God's** Kingdom, do still matter in the coming of the kingdom. Our actions in this life sow the seeds of the Kingdom.

In the Gospel, Mark 4:26-34: **Jesus** speaks in parables so that the people can understand what he is saying. Using everyday examples with which his listeners would have been familiar, he created images in their minds of what the reign of **God** is like. As we listen today to his words, let us too be drawn into the story and eagerly learn what **Jesus** has to tell us.

Today's Focus; By God's Grace and Will: We can cooperate and advance the coming of the reign of **God** on earth, but we can never bring it about on our own. It happens only through **God's** grace and will.

Question of the Week: Since we do not live in a society ruled by a king, and therefore the image of a kingdom might not be particularly meaningful, how do I imagine what it means for **God's** will to be done on earth as it is in heaven?



Praying with the Word: Lord God, may we sow the seeds of your kingdom and anxiously await their growth, so that we might be ready to gather the abundant harvest that your **Holy Spirit** produces.
Amen



In the Sacrament of the Eucharist we find God who gives himself



Religious Education News:

- ❖ Registration for the 2015-2016 Religious Education classes will begin on June 15th.
- ❖ Registration will be on Mondays from 9:30 to 1:00pm and Thursdays from 9:30 to 1:00pm and Saturdays by appointment only.
- ❖ Please bring your child's birth certificate and baptismal certificate when registering your child for the first time.
- ❖ Last day of registration will be August 13th.

Parish Council Meeting: There will be a Parish Council meeting on Wednesday June 17, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Rectory.

